

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY ARA:CBJACOBINI

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN FROM LUERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PANAMA 6518 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PANCANAL USCINCSO

20 SEP 76

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: ANTI-U.S. PRESS CAMPAIGN

SUMMARY: CRITICA AND MATUTINO JABBED THE U.S. IN SUNDAY AND MONDAY PAPERS, BUT THE LEVEL CONTINUED TO BE QUITE A FEW DECIBLES QUIETER THAN THE FRIDAY OUTCRY. REST OF THE PRESS HAS BEEN CALM, EXCEPT FOR DOMINICAL PAGE-ONE HEADLINE SAYING U.S. ADMITS SOLDIERS' PRESENCE IN DISTURBANCES. END SUMMARY.

1. SUNDAY: SDOMINICAL CROWED IN HEADLINE THAT "U.S. ADMITS PRESENCE OF ITS SOLDIERS IN THE DISTURBANCES" AND WENT ON TO CARRY UPI WASHINGTON DISPATCH REPORTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TWO

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MEMBERS OF THE 193RD INFANTRY BRIGADE WERE ARRESTED

DURING DISTURBANCES IN PANAMA.

2. MONDAY MORNING CRITICA AND MATUTINO HEADLINED "NEW REVELATIONS" ON THE "CONSPIRACY"; GONZALEZ DE LA LASTRA (PRESUMABLY HIDING IN THE CANAL ZONE) HAS YET TO BE FOUND; THAT THE CANAL ZONE POLICE ARE MAINTAINING CONSTANT PATROL IN THE ZONE ARBITRARILY STOPPING VEHICLES WITH PANAMANIAN PLATES; THAT HUMBERTO LOPEZ, A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT, IS IN THE ZONE AND HAS SOUGHT AND BEEN GRANTED ASYLUM BY WASHINGTON; FINALLY THAT CANAL ZONE POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM DRUMMOND HAS BEEN PHONING LATEST RUMORS CONCERNING PANAMA TO AN INDIVIDUAL IN WASHINGTON (TO A NUMBER LISTED AS 202-546-5611).

3. SEMI-INDEPENDENT ESTRELLA AND STAR AND HERALD REPORTED IN THEIR SUNDAY EDITIONS THE SATURDAY GOP-STUDENT MEETING (SEPTEL) IN WHICH VICE PRESIDENT GERARDO GONZALEZ CITED THE ARREST OF TWO U.S. SERVICEMEN AS "EVIDENCE THAT ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WERE INVOLVED" BUT THAT "HE WAS NOT ACCUSING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OF BEING INVOLVED." IN MONDAY PRESS, ONLY REFERENCE TO RECENT DISTURBANCES IN BOTH PAPERS WAS A PERIPHERAL ARTICLE REPORTING THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS AND THAT SECRETARY OF STATE SHLAUDEMAN HAS BRANDED CHARGES OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT AS "TOTALLY UNFOUNDED."

JORDEN
UNQUOTE
ROBINSON

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